

REMARKS

Status Summary

In this Amendment, no claims are added and claims 23, 95, and 96 are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-22, 24-94, and 97-112 will be pending.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-112 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,683,881 to Mijares et al. (hereinafter, "Mijares"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 37, 57, and 58 include methods and network elements for providing front end processing services for a plurality of SCP or database nodes that are separate from the network element and that do not include individual front end processors. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a first module that receives a data packet from a communications network. A second module in the network element receives the data packet and forwards the data packet to one of a plurality of SCP or database nodes being separate from the first network element and being without front end processors. The network element provides front end processing functionality for the SCP or database nodes and eliminates the need for the SCP or database nodes to have individual front end processors. As discussed in Applicants' response to the previous Official Action, eliminating the need for individual front end processors at SCPs greatly reduces the cost of deploying such nodes.

There is absolutely no disclosure in Mijares of a method or a network element that provides front end processing service for a plurality of SCP or database nodes without front end processors or that eliminates the need for such processors. Mijares is directed to a gateway that converts between SS7 and IP. For example, Mijares states:

The gateway 14 allows messages originating in the IP network to be transmitted via gateway 14 to a node in the SS7 network 10. Similarly, messages originating in the SS7 network can be transmitted via the gateway 14 to a host on the IP network 12. Messages originating in the IP network 12 are converted into SS7 messages for transport over the SS7 network 10. Similarly, messages originating in the SS7 network are converted into IP messages suitable for transmission over the IP network 12. (See column 4, lines 45-55 of Mijares.)

From this passage, Mijares discloses that gateway 14 is simply a protocol converter that converts between SS7 and IP. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Mijares that gateway 14 provides front end processing service for a plurality of SCP or database nodes separate from the network element and without front end processors or that gateway 14 eliminates the need for the SCP or database nodes to have front end processors.

Nonetheless, on page 3 of the Official Action, it is stated that column 10, lines 50-60 of Mijares discloses providing front end processing service. Column 10, lines 50-60 of Mijares states as follows:

The PWOP is also used for communicating mobile application data over an interface between a host in the IP network and a gateway to an SS7 network. The gateway will be referred to herein as an SS7 gateway. The PWOP protocol resides between the transport layer (TCP) and the TCAP layer. An important feature of the protocol is that it avoids the need to implement SS7 protocols, particularly the SCCP protocol and lower level SS7 protocols.

The above quoted passage from Mijares simply recites that the private wireless office protocol (PWOP) resides between the TCP layer and the TCAP layer and is used for transmitting TCAP messages over IP. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of providing front end processing service for a plurality of SCP nodes, not to mention SCP nodes without individual front end processors. The only SCP nodes even mentioned in Mijares are conventional SCPs that include front end processors. For example, Mijares states, "an SCP 114 is used to provide access to databases." (See column 6, line 47 of Mijares.) An SCP that provides access to databases is a conventional SCP **including a front end processor**. Accordingly, for all of the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of independent claims 1, 37, 57, and 88 and their respective dependent claims as anticipated by Mijares should be withdrawn.

Yet another reason that the rejection of the claims as anticipated by Mijares should be withdrawn is that at least claims 1-9, 15-22, 28-30, 37, 39-47, 55-57, 59-63, 80-82, 88, 90-94, 102, 103, and 109-112 are entitled to the priority benefit of U.S. provisional patent application 60/127,889 filed April 5, 1999. For the Examiner's convenience, pages 1-24 of the subject provisional patent application, which describe the invention now claimed in the above-referenced claims of the present application, are attached hereto. In the subject provisional patent application, an STP provides front end processing functionality for a plurality of SCP nodes that do not have individual front end processors (see Figure 3 on page 7 of the subject provisional patent application.) In addition, an exemplary internal structure for the STP including query message flows are described in Figures 4 and 5 of the subject provisional patent application. Conversion of the original query message into a database compatible language, such

as SQL, is also disclosed. (See page 7 of attached excerpt from provisional patent application.) All of the above-referenced claims are supported by the disclosure of the provisional patent application. Thus, because the present application claims the priority benefit of the provisional patent application, and the above-referenced claims are supported by the disclosure of the provisional patent application, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are entitled to a 102(e) filing date of April 5, 1999. Since Mijares was filed on May 28, 1999, it is respectfully submitted that for this additional reason the rejection of these claims as anticipated by Mijares should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

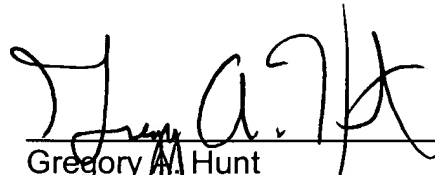
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

Date: December 13, 2004

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Enclosures